

The IISD's Global Subsidies Initiative has the pleasure of inviting you to a seminar on:

The Hidden Costs of Fuel Subsidies in India to the Corporate, Transport and Household Sectors

Date: Tuesday, 8 March 2011

Venue: YMCA, Mumbai Central

Trillions of rupees are spent each year in India to keep down the price of fuel. In most cases, these policies have been introduced in an effort to stabilize prices and keep fuel affordable for the poor. Yet despite the good intentions, they often result in negative, unintended consequences on the economy, environment and social welfare.

A special seminar organised by the International Institute for Sustainable Development's Global Subsidies Initiative (GSI, www.globalsubsidies.org), in cooperation with the Forum of Environmental Journalists of India, is bringing together leading journalists and energy experts to explore the hidden costs of fuel subsidies. The seminar will offer journalists fresh insights into India's energy-pricing regime, and its far-reaching impacts on sustainable economic development.

Programme

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| 8.30 | <i>Registration</i> |
| 9.00 – 9.30 | Welcome and Keynote Address by Ajit Kapadia, Vice Chairman, Centre for Fuel Studies, Vadodara |
| 9.30 – 10.30 | <p><u>Fossil-Fuel Subsidies in India: The case for rationalizing petroleum product prices</u>
 Presenter: Anmol Soni, TERI</p> <p>India's fuel-pricing regime has far reaching affects on the entire economy. This presentation will provide an overview of India's pricing policies and subsidies for gasoline, diesel, LPG and kerosene, with a focus on the impacts of subsidies on the economy and oil industry.</p> |
| 10.30 – 11.00 | <i>Coffee break</i> |
| 11.00 – 12.00 | <p><u>The Invisible Hand of Self-Interest: Corruption and politics of fuel subsidies</u>
 Presenter: Bhamy Shenoy, Energy Consultant</p> <p>Countless attempts to reform energy subsidies have been undone by corruption and special interests. This presentation will reveal the extent to which financial and political interests have undermined energy-pricing policies.</p> |
| 12.00 – 13.00 | <i>Lunch</i> |

- 13.00 – 14.00 [*In the Driver's Seat: Subsidies to the transport sector*](#)
Presenter: Anumita Roychowdhry, Centre for Science & Environment (CSE)
Who benefits from transport fuel subsidies? How are subsidies shaping the future of India's transport sector? This presentation will survey the impacts of subsidies on technology conversion and environmental externalities.
- 14.00 – 15.00 [*Pruning Subsidies on LPG and Kerosene: India might miss the target*](#)
Presenter: Kaushik Bandyopadhyay, TERI University:
The problems with adulteration and diversion of LPG and kerosene are well documented. But the impacts on consumers, especially women and rural poor, are rarely fully appreciated. This presentation will discuss how subsidized fuel often misses its target, and outline some alternate government schemes to address the problem.
- 15.00 – 15.30 *Coffee break*
- 15.30 – 16.00 [*Fossil-Fuel Subsidies: India in the global picture*](#)
Kerryn Lang, GSI-IISD
How do India's fuel subsidies compare with other countries in the world? What types of international commitments may influence subsidy reform? This presentation will place India's fuel-pricing regime in a global context.
- 16.00 – 16.30 [*GSI: Reporting on subsidy policies*](#)
Damon Vis-Dunbar, GSI-IISD
“Follow the money” is a mantra often used by journalists. It is especially relevant to journalistic coverage of government subsidies. This presentation will highlight investigative journalist projects on subsidies, and underline some of the barriers and challenges to these types of stories.
- 16.30 – 17.30 Facilitated discussion
Darryl D'Monte, International Federation of Environmental Journalists (IFEJ)